

The Mount of Seduction

Luke 4:1-14

Introduction:

“You will notice that everything that Jesus does comes from the strength He has drawn from God. God is not acting for Him, but He is allowing God to act through Him.”

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Deuteronomy 8:3

“The three temptations match the sequence of temptations experienced by Israel in the wilderness, the provision of manna. (Exodus 16), the test at Massah (Exodus 17), and the worship of the golden calf (Exodus 32). Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. This scene also reveals Jesus as both human and divine.”

- David Jeremiah

I. The weapons that He carried to the mount of seduction.

A. He took to the mount the knowledge of God’s word.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. (V. 47) And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. Luke 2:46-47

... It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. Luke 4:4

... Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Luke 4:8

... It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Luke 4:12

B. He took to the mount the knowledge of God’s will.

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John 4:34

“Let me be clear. You are a version of Joseph in your generation. You represent a challenge to Satan's plan. You carry something of God within you, something noble and holy, something this world needs - wisdom, kindness, mercy, skill. If Satan can neutralize you, he can mute your influence.”

- Max Lucado

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

II. The warrior He confronted on the mount of seduction.

A. This warrior struck at His weakest hour.

Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. Luke 4:2

*“Tempt – This verb has the idea of putting a person or thing to the test. The positive goal is to establish or prove the true character of someone; the negative goal is trying to trap or incriminate the one being tested.”
- Jerry Vines*

And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. (V. 31) And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. Genesis 25:30-31

B. This warrior struck at the weakness of His humanity.

And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. Luke 4:3

III. The war He conquered on the mount of seduction.

“What Jesus would do under the fire of the cross was settled right there on the mount of seduction.”

A. He conquered the war against His own flesh.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. Luke 4:3

(Jesus was fighting two enemies: His flesh and the Devil.)

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Galatians 5:17

(The reason that the battle is always hard is because the devil casts you against your own self!)

B. He conquered the war against His foe.

And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season. Luke 4:13

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7